

## D-DAY Remembered 2019

Today is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. In the hour this morning as I write this letter, thousands of our troops have already died. Many of these troops had never before left their hometowns, let alone their state and now they are landing on a beach thousands of miles from home. They were our fathers, brothers, uncles, cousin and husbands. In that group of brave men that jumped from landing craft into waist and chest high waters were 18-20 year olds that had two thoughts in their minds; staying alive and getting to the enemy. There were no designated safe places to avoid confrontation. There were no pets to soothe their anxiety. They were men that day and the country could not have been more proud and sad for their sacrifice. Many would not come home. Many would come home and had to live with disabilities. Many never ever talked about their ordeals, some did as their life was coming to an end.

Those that survived the war in both Europe and Japan bore the memories of the horror of war and went on to build this great country to the industrial success that America enjoys today. We owe them a lot. Without their grit, determination and ingenuity we would not have become the country that beckons everyone. Now there are very few of these brave men, and women, left from the Greatest Generation, as Tom Brokaw named them. Having talked to several of these men over the years their greatest fear was that it was all for naught. They watched the decaying of our moral fabric, the loss of respect for elders, the trashing of our country's values.

I am of the Vietnam era and watched as US Citizens spat at our soldiers, as the likes of John Kerry and Jane Fonda dissed our soldiers and our country with their actions and words. This, to me, was the beginning of the erosion of the country in which I grew up. It is my generation that sowed the seed of discontent. Many of my generation fought each other in the streets to protest the war, but war protestors aimed their venom at the soldier and sailors who did their duty. Let me be clear, I enlisted in the Marines to fight the enemy, but I also think Robert McNamara has the blood of many of the Vietnam military on his hands.

When President Trump says "Make America Great Again" it registers to the time when there was respect and civility in our country. America was going to church, saying "God Bless America" in school was not viewed as a crime, going to a major league sports event was not a political affair. Yes we had contention with Civil Rights and it was dealt with and we are still dealing with it. Southern Democrats created Jim Crowe laws that hurt many people. But, this country went on to elect a black president. This country has dealt with a lot of obstacles, but we dealt with them as a country. Today, sadly, we do not.

As Southern Democrats implemented Jim Crowe laws, today's democrats and republicans, would rather bend to the whims of the political correctness crowd rather than deal with real issues that face our country. Immigration, our southern border crisis, country's debt, healthcare or infrastructure these are the problems that need solving, not what bathroom someone can use. Rome fell for many reasons, but one was the corruption of the Roman Senate who could no longer run the country. They were too entrenched in their own agendas. That is what we have today. Congress is hiding their heads in the sand and ignoring our country's needs.

When the call to arms is sounded to fight foreign wars how many will stand up and serve? Today's military is a volunteer military and deserve our gratitude and prayers. As in WWII many are immigrants or first generation as they heed the need to serve. What is our congress doing to help them and their families? They are still waiting in VA lines for too long to obtain help. Has there been progress sure, but the problem is not solved. Congress is fickle and is attracted to a problem only when a light is shined on it and it embarrasses them.

Today I salute: the forefathers who bravely built this country on a vision that they were building a New World that would be the envy of the world; the military who serve to protect that vision; those that sacrificed their lives so that I could freely write this letter.